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Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 - Expedited Examining Procedure

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Serial No.: 09/822,651

Confirmation No.: 9447

Filed: 30 March 2001

For: WEB HAVING DISCRETE STEM REGIONS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) A web construction comprising:

a substrate comprising a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the first major side of the substrate,

wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch of polymer having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and further wherein the polymer forming the discrete patches of polymer is not present on the second major side of the substrate; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

72. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises an elastic substrate.

73. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.

74. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein, for each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, one or more stems of the plurality of stems extend from an interior of the discrete polymeric region.

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75. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises fibrous material.

76. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises a porous web.

77. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises a woven web.

78. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises a nonwoven web.

79. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises a knit web.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a mushroom head.

82. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 71, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.

83. (Currently Amended) A web construction comprising:
an elastic substrate comprising a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

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a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the first major side of the elastic substrate, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch of polymer having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the elastic substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the elastic substrate, and further wherein the polymer forming the discrete patches of polymer is not present on the second major side of the elastic substrate; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein the elastic substrate defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at angles that are not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

84. (Canceled)

85. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein the plurality of stems are angled in multiple directions relative to the localized plane.

86. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein the plurality of stems are angled in the same direction relative to the localized plane.

87. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, further comprising loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.

88. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein the elastic substrate comprises fibrous material.

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89. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein the elastic substrate comprises a porous web.
90. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein, for each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, one or more stems of the plurality of stems extend from an interior of the discrete polymeric region.
91. (Canceled)
92. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a mushroom head.
93. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 83, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.
94. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener comprising:
a substrate comprising a fibrous surface as a first major side, the substrate further comprising a second major side;
a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the fibrous surface of the substrate such that polymer of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions is entangled with the fibrous surface of the substrate, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch of polymer having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and further wherein the polymer forming the discrete patches of polymer is not present on the second major side of the substrate; and
a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions.

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95. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises a composite comprising a film layer.
96. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises an elastic substrate.
97. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.
98. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein, for each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, one or more stems of the plurality of stems extend from an interior of the discrete polymeric region.
99. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises a porous web.
100. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises a woven web.
101. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises a nonwoven web.
102. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate comprises a knit web.

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103. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

104. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a mushroom head.

105. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.

106. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 94, wherein the substrate defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at angles that are not normal to the localized plane.

107. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 106, wherein the plurality of stems are angled in multiple directions relative to the localized plane.

108. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 106, wherein the plurality of stems are angled in the same direction relative to the localized plane.

109. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:
a substrate comprising a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;
a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the first major side of the substrate,
wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the polymer forming [[of]] the plurality of polymeric regions does not

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extend through the substrate to the second major side of the substrate or form the second major side of the substrate; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

110. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:

an elastic substrate comprising a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the first major side of the elastic substrate, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the elastic substrate, and wherein the polymer forming [[of]] the plurality of polymeric regions does not extend through the substrate to the second major side of the substrate or form the second major side of the substrate; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein the elastic substrate defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at angles that are not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

111. (Currently Amended) A mechanical fastener comprising:

a substrate comprising a fibrous surface as a first major side, the substrate further comprising a second major side;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the fibrous surface of the substrate such that polymer of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions is entangled with the fibrous surface of the substrate, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the polymer forming [[of]] the plurality of

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polymeric regions does not extend through the substrate to the second major side of the substrate or form the second major side of the substrate; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions.

112. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:

a substrate comprising a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the first major side of the substrate,

wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the second major side of the substrate is free of the polymer making up the plurality of discrete polymeric regions; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

113. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener comprising:

a substrate comprising a fibrous surface as a first major side, the substrate further comprising a second major side;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to the fibrous surface of the substrate such that polymer of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions is entangled with the fibrous surface of the substrate, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch having a perimeter that is entirely bordered by the first major side of the substrate, and wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located only on the first major side of the substrate, and further wherein the second major side of the substrate is free of the polymer making up the plurality of discrete polymeric regions; and

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a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions.

114. (New) A web construction comprising:

a substrate comprising a fibrous nonwoven web, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web comprises a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions attached to the first major side of the nonwoven web, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch of polymer that does not extend through the nonwoven web to the second major side of the nonwoven web, and wherein each discrete patch of polymer has a perimeter that is entirely surrounded by the first major side of the nonwoven web; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.

115. (New) A mechanical fastener comprising:

a substrate comprising a fibrous nonwoven web, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web comprises a first major side, a second major side, and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions attached to the first major side of the nonwoven web, wherein each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a discrete patch of polymer that does not extend through the nonwoven web to the second major side of the nonwoven web, and wherein each discrete patch of polymer has a perimeter that is entirely surrounded by the first major side of the nonwoven web; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a free, unattached end.